



COL. KATHIE CLOSE
377th Air Base Wing commander

Thanks to TEAM KIRTLAND members for support

Dear Colonel Close,

Usually, all you hear about these days is some kind of negative incident, but I have something positive that happened.

Steven Martinez and Bart Clements of the Air Force Safety Center helped me meet my deadline regarding Computer Security quarterly scans by assisting in my request to borrow computer equipment for a month. Sandra Pacheco of the 377th Mission Support Group, helped me get the letters together on the computer security vulnerabilities.

Because of these people's unselfishness and concern for me making my deadline, I was able to complete my work on time. I

FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240

am so thankful for their help.

I would like everyone on this base to know that people are still caring and sharing when they see you have a need.

Car rental charge added for insurance, rate guarantee

I just returned from temporary duty in which I rented a car from Avis, because it was listed as the cheapest rate.

After turning in the car and examining the receipt, I noticed a daily charge of \$5 for "GARS." I asked the Avis agent what that meant. It is a charge that is applied to all government-rate rentals. So I said, "It's just a way to increase the cost without appearing to increase the official rate." The agent answered in the affirmative.

Maybe other car rental agencies are doing this too, so it is a "level playing field." If all aren't playing that way, then we need to take some action to ensure that government travelers know the true cost of rentals when making a decision of what agency to choose. We should not reward companies who are hiding 15 percent price hikes in the fine print.

How can we do that?

As of Oct. 1, the Military Traffic Management Command entered into a Rental Car Agreement with several rental car companies, serving DOD Installations. The agreement provides guaranteed rates and insurance coverage for the benefit of authorized travelers.

Our Commercial Travel Office ensures that rental car reservations are made through companies who subscribe to this agreement, unless the rental request is in an area where there are no participating rental car companies.

To cover the costs of this agreement, rental car companies are authorized to charge an additional \$5 a day fee. This is a reimbursable item and is included in the overall cost of the rental and paid on the travel voucher.

This subsidized rate is covered under the Government Administrative Rate Supplement. Rodgers Travel has agreed to inform members of the additional \$5 per day charge upon confirmation of the rental car reservation.

The decision to use the lowest cost company is made independent of this \$5 a day charge. The Rental Car Agreement is regarded as a positive venture, created in the best interest of government travelers.

Not all rental car companies

participate in this agreement, consequently, some rental receipts will show this charge and some won't.

For further information or reference material on this subject matter, contact Master Sgt. Dave Talley, 846-1817, or Tech. Sgt. Lonarine Cartwright, 846-1838.

Contacting Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB. Give base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum. Callers' names won't be printed.

Write:

377th ABW/CC Forum
2000 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117.

Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691
CE 24-hour Help Desk, 846-8222
Commissary, 846-9586
Computer help, 846-5926
Energy wasting, 846-4633
Exchange Service, 266-9887
Family Services, 846-0741
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639
Law Enforcement Desk, 846-7926, 846-7913
Legal Services, 846-4217
Medical Clinic, 846-3406
Services Squadron, 853-7679

Partnership principles help AFMC deliver support to warfighter

BY GEN. LESTER L. LYLES

Air Force Materiel Command commander and

BOBBY HARNAGE,

American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, president

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Every successful organization has key ingredients - strong leadership, dedicated workers, a clear road-map of where it wants to go and focused goals. But there is another ingredient that strengthens an organization - strong partnerships.

Air Force Materiel Command and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO have forged a strong, dynamic partnership built on an important

vision - labor and management working together to create and sustain an environment that takes care of our people so they can take care of the mission. And our partnership is helping us make a difference as we provide support to our American warfighters and our allies.

But there was a time when our union and AFMC management did not have a strong partnership, and we often engaged in heated debate about how best to serve the command workforce. But today, our relationship is built on five partnership principles:

- ★ We value and respect all workers
- ★ We focus on our common interests and shared problems
- ★ We share information freely
- ★ We treat each other as

equals

★ And we work to sustain the partnership process

We follow these principles with respect and appreciation for each other's roles and responsibilities. It's not a perfect partnership, few partnerships are.

But we are committed to maintaining a climate in which management and the union work together. Whether it's on the shop floor or around the conference room table, we must work together as partners. Following these principles is the right thing to do.

We've come a long way since we formed our command partnership council three years ago. Our councils, both at the headquarters and our centers, are making great strides as we operationalize

partnership principles at all levels throughout AFMC.

We are working as a team and there is no better example of our success than the Alternative Dispute Resolution program we're rolling out right now. It's a way to resolve disputes-not as adversaries, but as partners. It's quicker and less expensive than the traditional complaint process, so it puts less strain on our ability to accomplish the mission.

We call on everyone in AFMC, military and civilian, union and non-bargaining, to work as a team and embrace our partnership principles. It will make a difference in your quality of life and in AFMC's success meeting our national security objectives. Together we can make it happen.

NUCLEUS

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Artist's concept of the new Telescope Atmosphere Compensation Laboratory being built by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate near the Starfire Optical Range.

Directed Energy breaks ground for \$15.5-million facility

Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman were among the dignitaries at a ground-breaking ceremony for a \$15.5 million laboratory, yesterday near Kirtland AFB's Starfire Optical Range.

The 52,000-square-foot facility will support the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate in its advanced optical research, laser propagation and space object imaging.

This new facility, called the Telescope Atmosphere Compensation Laboratory, will feature an aluminizing recoating capability for

large mirrors. One such mirror is the 3.5-meter primary mirror on the directorate's largest telescope at the Starfire Optical Range. This recoating capability could also be used on the large mirrors at local astronomical observatories.

There will be enough laboratory space—and associated optics, electronics and computers—to design, construct, test and integrate experimental hardware for optical research. Also included will be office space, conference rooms, and group work areas for 84 scientists, engineers, and technicians who are

currently housed in portable buildings and trailers in the area.

The directorate, at its Starfire Optical Range, uses several telescopes for its advanced optical research. These include a 1.0-meter beam director, a 1.5-meter telescope, and a 3.5-meter telescope. All are capable of tracking low-earth-orbit satellites and all are equipped with large-scale, high-performance adaptive optical systems.

The range also has numerous smaller telescopes, beam directors, laser systems and a variety of op-

tics, electronics, and mechanical laboratories. Directorate researchers conduct field experiments in various technology areas: real-time atmospheric compensation, atmospheric turbulence physics, and target acquisition, pointing, and tracking.

K. L. House, Inc. of Albuquerque, was awarded this contract by the Albuquerque District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The corps is supervising the contractor's design and construction activities. The building is scheduled for completion in April 2004.

N.M. Army Guardsmen help guard Kirtland AFB gates

BY 2ND LT. MICHELLE ESTEP
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Yesterday, 126 New Mexico Army National Guardsmen began their projected one-year assignments at Kirtland AFB. The soldiers were mobilized to support the war on terrorism and assist with homeland security.

The soldiers are members of Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery, in Albuquerque.

After attending extensive localized training with the 377th Security Forces Squadron, the newest members of TEAM KIRTLAND have reported for duty.



Photo by Todd Berenger

New Mexico Army National Guardsman Sgt. Martin Marquez listens to a briefing in preparation for becoming a Kirtland AFB gate guard. Members of Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery, Albuquerque, were called to active duty to supplement the base's defenses.

Their responsibilities include physical security such as installation entry control; vehicle searches; random anti-terrorism measures; and perimeter patrols. They have not been trained in law enforcement, investigations or dispute resolution.

"The commitments of our active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel are a true testament to the strength of our collective and dedicated efforts to fight the global war on terrorism," said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

"Our heightened force protection conditions place a tremendous burden on our force, and in particular our security forces," the general continued. "To temporarily

relieve this stress while we pursue permanent solutions, we have executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army to provide interim support.

"This effort will facilitate a timely demobilization of Air Force Re-

serve security forces while reducing the Ops tempo on our active force."

With their ongoing missions, the men and women of the New Mexico Army National Guard have proven the term "weekend warrior" no longer applies.

Soldiers mobilized for this mission can expect to be ordered to active duty for one year. Mobilization figures for both services will fluctuate in the upcoming months as the mobilization, transition and demobilizations occur.

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center changes commanders

Maj. Gen. William A. "Ken" Peck Jr. relinquishes command of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center to Brig. Gen. (Maj. Gen. select) Felix Dupré in a change of command ceremony, Feb. 26, 2 p.m., in the 58th Special Operations Wing Hangar 1000.

Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, Air Force vice chief of staff, is officiating. The Air Force Gateway Band is providing the music.

Dupré is the U.S. Defense attache to France. There will be a reception for the new commander in the hangar following the ceremony.

Public parking will be limited. Attendees are encouraged to park behind the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Headquarters Building 20130 at the northwest corner of Gibson and Wyoming and ride the bus. Buses depart at 1:15 p.m. and will return every 15 minutes after the ceremony until the end of the reception.

Distinguished visitor parking will be available for those with a placard available from JoAnn Mellon, 846-5204.

Call Maj. Keith Higginbotham, 853-0640.